

June 21, 2005, at 10 a.m., to examine the issue of voter verification the federal elections process.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Susan Wells at the Rules and Administration Committee on 224-6352.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Hegerle, a staff member with Senator TALENT, be granted floor privileges during the consideration of the Energy bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR J. JAMES EXON

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 170, which was submitted early today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 170) relative to the death of J. James Exon, former United States Senator for the State of Nebraska.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, on Friday, Nebraska lost one of the most dominant political figures in our State's history. Former two-term Governor and three-term U.S. Senator Jim Exon passed away in Lincoln at the age of 83.

Many in this Chamber today served with him and knew him well. Those who served with Jim Exon remember a serious and dedicated public servant who enjoyed life and loved his State.

Jim's voice was strong, and he spoke clearly and directly. No one ever had to guess where Jim Exon stood. As a Governor and a Senator, he fought for balanced budgets and restrained Government spending.

In the Senate, from his seat on the Armed Services Committee, he was a passionate advocate for a strong national defense. As a member of the Commerce Committee, he was a protector of our natural resources, and he had the foresight to author the Communications Decency Act.

Mr. President, today, when politics is too often a race to the lowest political common denominator, Jim Exon was a very effective leader, a partisan leader who always played it straight. He never lost an election. He won five statewide elections in Nebraska, more than any other Nebraskan. Under Jim Exon's leadership, the Democratic Party became the dominant party in Nebraska for 25 years.

Anyone who knows Nebraska understands what a remarkable accomplishment that was. He did it by listening to the people. He did it by being a leader.

I was Jim Exon's replacement in the Senate in 1996. Over the last 9 years, I came to know him well and respect his judgment. We did not always agree, but I always appreciated the opportunities I had to visit with Senator Exon on a wide range of issues. A child of the plains and a veteran of World War II, he is part of a generation of Americans who understood leadership, sacrifice, and war. In his later years, Jim Exon had much to say. And I had an opportunity to listen.

The voice and wisdom of Jim Exon and his generation is slipping away from us at a time of unparalleled change in our world. Just as with Jim Exon, while this great generation is still with us, we need to listen closely to them. I did listen to Jim Exon.

As a small businessman, two-term Governor and three-term Senator, James Exon, along with his wife Pat, served his State, his Nation, and this institution with distinction. He will be missed by the Nebraskans he served so well and loved so much.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 170) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 170

Whereas J. James Exon served in the United States Army Signal Corps from 1942-1945 and in the United States Army Reserve from 1945-1949;

Whereas J. James Exon served as Governor of the State of Nebraska from 1971-1979;

Whereas J. James Exon served the people of Nebraska with distinction for 18 years in the United States Senate where he was a proponent of a strong national defense and knowledgeable source on geopolitical matters;

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable J. James Exon, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable J. James Exon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 150, the nomination of Brian Montgomery to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. I further ask unanimous consent that the nomina-

tion be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14; I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and that the Senate then return to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Thomas Griffith to be a U.S. circuit judge for the DC Circuit; provided that at 10 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation as provided under the previous order.

I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the Democratic Party luncheon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Thomas Griffith to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit. At 10 a.m., the Senate will proceed to a vote on his confirmation. That will be the first vote of tomorrow's session. Following the confirmation vote, the Senate will begin consideration of the Energy bill. This bill was reported out of committee with strong bipartisan support. It is our hope that we can move this legislation forward in a timely manner. We will begin the amending process tomorrow and votes in relation to amendments are possible throughout the day tomorrow. At this time, I encourage those Senators who have amendments to contact the bill's managers so that they can establish an orderly schedule for their consideration.